

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A tackifier,

comprising:

a. synthetic polymer selected from the group consisting  
5 essentially of polyacrylamide, polyacrylate, and a co-polymer of  
acrylate and acrylamide;

b. a natural organic material associated with said  
synthetic polymer; and

c. a cross-linking agent for cross-linking said synthetic  
10 polymer and said associated natural organic material.

2. The tackifier of claim 1 which additionally  
comprises an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable  
composition of said synthetic polymer, said associated natural  
organic material and said cross-linking agent.

15. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said synthetic  
polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 80% by weight; said  
natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is  
present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight; and said cross-  
linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

20. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said synthetic  
polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight; said  
natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is  
present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight; and said cross-  
linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

5. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight; said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 25% to 35% by weight; and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 8% to 12%.

6. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin, plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp.

10 7. The tackifier of claim 1 in which said cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting essentially of: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate, hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, magnesium sulfate, molybdenum sulfate, and sodium molybdate.

15 8. The tackifier of claim 1 which additionally consists essentially of a surfactant present in an amount ranging between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.

20 9. The tackifier of claim 1 which additionally consists essentially of a fiber to form a slurry.

10. The slurry of claim 9 which additionally comprises an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable composition of

said synthetic polymer, said associated natural organic material, and said cross-linking agent.

11. The slurry of claim 9 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount 5 from 10% to 80% by weight; said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight; and said cross-linking agent being present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

12. The slurry of claim 9 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight; said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight; and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

13. The slurry of claim 9 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight; said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 25% to 35% by weight; and said cross-linking agent being 20 present in an amount from 8% to 12%.

14. The tackifier of claim 9 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin,

plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp.

15. The tackifier of claim 9 in which said cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting essentially of: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate, hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, and magnesium sulfate.

16. The tackifier of claim 9 which additionally consists essentially of a surfactant present in an amount ranging between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.